देने हेतु बनाओ, संचालित करो और बाद में हस्तांतरित करो (बी. ओ. टी.) के आधार पर नीति बनायी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस नीति के क्रियान्वयन के संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है देश में सड़क निर्माण क्षेत्र में आठवीं योजना के अंत तक निजी क्षेत्र से सरकार की क्या अपेक्षाएं हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी. जी. वेंकटरामन): (क) जी हां।

(ग) और (ग) आठवीं योजना के दौरान कुल 51 करोड़ रु. के कार्यों के तीन करारों को अंतिम रूप दिया जा चुका है और निर्माण-कार्य शुरू हो चुका है, इस प्रकार निजी क्षेत्र का प्रत्युत्तर संतोषजनक है। सरकार को आशा है कि बाइपासों, पुलों, पुलोपरि सड़क और मौजूदा 2-लेन खंडों को 4-लेन का बनाने से संबंधित और अधिक बी ओ टी परियोजनाएं शुरू की जाएंगी।

Development of Inland Water Transport

114. SHRI YERRA NARAYANAS-WAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in THE HINDU' dated October 26, 1997 captioned "Government keen on developing Inland Water Transport".

(b) what concrete steps have been proposed to encourage Inland Water Transport;

(c) whether any concrete steps would be taken to improve the inland transport network in the Godavari Delta in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) and (b) During the 9th Five Year Plan, the focus would be mainly on the accelerated development of I.W.T. infrastructure in the three existing National Waterways, namely, the river Ganga, the river Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal. The developmental works on few new Waterways are also proposed to commence during this Plan depending on availability of Resources.

(c) and (d) A proposal to declare and develop the river Godavari from Cherla to Rajahmundhry and its Delta canals as National Waterways is under process. Simultaneously, a larger transport network by water, linking the Godavari Delta with Kakinada, Chennai and Mar-caunum through the revival of canal systems viz; Kakinada, Eluru, Buckingham etc. is also under study.

Concept of Dedicated Ports

115. SHRI YERRA NARAYANAS WAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any time bound plans to implement the concept of dedicated ports in the country;

(b)if so, the details of such plans; and

(c)in what manner Government propose to improve port facilities in agricultural areas?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) to (c) So far as Central Government is concerned, there is no plan to create any dedicated port in the near future. However, in case the State Government so desire, they may set up such ports with the help of private sector if necessary.

Plans for development of National High-ways in Gujarat

116. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways (NH) targeted for 1961-81 and 1981-2001 development plans, respectively, for the State of Gujarat; (b) whether the target of National Highways has since been achieved in this State;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to achieve the target of National Highways in Gujarat by the turn of this century?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No targets have been fixed.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Loss of Economy due to strike by private bus operators

117. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of the loss to the economy and the inconvenience caused to public due to the recent strike of the private passenger bus operators who were protesting against the irresponsible man ner in which the service tax is being levied;

(b) what are the steps Government have taken to prevent such inconvenience to public and the loss to the economy due to such strike;

(c) what were the demands of the strikers; and

(d) . the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Losses incurred by Indian Road Transport Corporation

118. DR. MOHAN BABU:
DR. ALLALI P. RAJKUMAR:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated losses of the Indian Road Transport Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last 12 years several high powered committees have recommended closure of this ailing corporation; and

(c) the reasons for which their recommendations have not been implemented and the present policy of Government with regard to winding up of the corporation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Indian Roads Constructions Corporation whose accumulated losses aggregate to Rs. 452.946 crorcs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has since been decided to wind up the Corporation.

पत्तनों पर माल चढ़ाना और उतारना

119. **श्री नागमणिः**
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादवः

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ पत्तनों पर काफी भीड़-भाड़ है जिसके कारण आयात और निर्यात की जाने वाली बहुत सी चीजें पत्तनों पर पड़ी रहती हैं और निर्यात किये जाने वाले माल को चढ़ाने और उतारने में काफी समय लग जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन पत्तनों के नाम क्या हैं; और

(ग) सरकार ने उन पत्तनों पर माल चढ़ाने और उतारने में कोई देरी न हो इसके लिए क्या प्रयास किये हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी. बी. जी. वेंकटरामन): (क) और (ख) जी हां। मुंबई,